



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, November 18, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Federal Interagency Committee on the Management of Noxious & Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) Retreat: November 8 – 10, 2004, the Federal Interagency Committee on the Management of Noxious & Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) Retreat was held in Shepherdstown, WV, at the National Conservation Training Center. A primary purpose of the Retreat was for FICMNEW members to formulate their work plan for 2005-2006. Among other topics, plans to update and revise the FICMNEW Memorandum of Understanding were discussed. Al Tasker, APHIS National Noxious Weed Manager, the APHIS representative on the committee participated, and will summarize the main goals developed at the meeting at the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) meeting in Crystal City Nov 16.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) meeting 16-17 Nov, 2004. ANSTF met in Crystal City, VA this week. An updated version of the *Caulerpa taxifolia* action plan developed by the ANSTF *Caulerpa* work group will present to the Task Force, among other items of business. Polly Lehtonen and Al Tasker represent APHIS on the *Caulerpa* work group.

Invasive Plant Management In Natural Areas. Field Demonstration Day. A field day entitled "Achieving Selectivity Through Integrated Techniques" is being held November 17, 2004, at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center next Beltsville. The purpose is to demonstrate a variety of herbicide application techniques and product selection choices for targeted and selective management of invasive plants in natural areas. The application techniques demonstrated will include; aerial (helicopter) applications using sophisticated guidance and monitoring systems; aquatic applications for emerged and submerged vegetation;

ground applied low volume foliar applications; ground applied selective foliar treatments; hack and squirt; basal bark and cut stump techniques. Cosponsors are: Weed Science Society of America (WSSA); BASF Corporation; Dow AgroSciences; The Nature Conservancy (TNC); National Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center; and National Park Service, Capital Region Exotic Plant Management Team. Applications will be demonstrated by: Aquatic Nuisance Plant Control; Arborchem; Invasive Plant Control; Summit Helicopters; and Waldrum Specialties.

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

New Jersey:

On November 9, 2004, a conference call was held to discuss preliminary tree removal plans for the first stage of removals in Carteret that will begin on November 29, 2004. In attendance were USDA personnel Christine Markham, Mike Stefan, Vic Mastro, Alan Sawyer, and Barry Emens, and NJDA personnel Carl Schulze, Joe Zoltowski and Tom Denholm.

On November 10, 2004, a second infested tree with Asian Longhorned Beetle was found in the City of Rahway. The tree, a red maple with 3 exit holes and 5 egg sites, is located on a private residence. There are now 410 trees identified as infested with the beetle in the quarantine zone that includes Woodbridge, Carteret, Rahway and Linden. As this most recent find is within two blocks from the western edge of the quarantine zone, this will require the boundary lines of the quarantine to be adjusted.

Workers will begin the first phase of cutting down trees infested with the Asian longhorned beetle in Middlesex and Union counties on Monday, November 29, 2004. To prepare the public for what to expect during this process, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus and USDA officials will lead local leaders and the media on a tour of the first area to be cut on Tuesday, November 23, at 3:30 p.m. The tour will begin at Blair Road and Roosevelt Avenue in Carteret, near a mobile home park and along a stream that will see most



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of the initial cutting activity. During this first phase of cutting, roughly 1,000 trees are expected to be removed to halt the beetle's spread. Eventually, as many as 4,000 trees will have to come down. A reforestation program, replacing those trees with varieties the beetle will not infest, will follow. In addition to the tour, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture is sending out an informational letter to all residents who are scheduled to lose a tree(s) on their property.

Field surveys continued this week with more than 43,260 trees inspected to date. The entire quarantine zone is 10.5 square miles. Three new compliance agreements were issued this week for a total of 66. Twenty four USFS climbers, one NJ Department of Agriculture climber, and 27 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJ Department of Agriculture, NJ Forestry, and USDA Grain and Tobacco are performing survey and regulatory activities.

New York:

On November 17, 2004, it was confirmed that an elm tree located on 66th Street in the Upper East Side of Manhattan was infested by ALB. This find marks the third tree in Manhattan to be found infested this year. The new infested tree is located in a enclosed common garden surrounded by brownstones. At this point, only egg sites have been confirmed on the tree. The tree is only two blocks north from the other two trees found infested previously in Manhattan this year. All three of the infested trees are located in an area of Manhattan that has never received chemical treatment.

The Fall 2004 issue of the "Leaflet," the newsletter of Partnership for Parks, a joint program of the City Parks Foundation and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, was recently sent out to more than 200,000 members. The issue contained a story on the ALB infestations that were discovered this summer within the established quarantine areas of New York City. The story also provided the ALB Hotline phone number (1-877-STOP-ALB) to call to report any sighting of the ALB and generated numerous calls.

On December 5, 2004, Mike Bohne, USDA Forest Service Entomologist/ALB Outreach coordinator for the New York ALB Cooperative Eradication Program, Rosa Yoo, New Jersey Forestry/ALB Outreach coordinator, and Megan Sheremata, New York State Forestry/ALB Outreach coordinator will be conducting an Urban Forestry Workshop at the Greenbelt Environmental Education Center, High Rock Park, Staten Island, NY. The workshop will provide information on the ALB infestation in Carteret, NJ; the ALB infestations found this summer in NYC and how to look for, identify and report any sighting of the ALB.

On December 9, 2004, New York ALB Cooperative Eradication Program personnel will train approximately 15 volunteers from New York's Prospect Park, in Brooklyn, on how to survey for and report any finding of the ALB. After completing this course, the program will have trained more than 55 volunteers in the Prospect Park area.

Illinois:

On November 8, 2004, a tour group, part of the USFS Centennial Celebration, visited the Chicago ALB office. The tour provided the ALB office with the opportunity to share information with external stakeholders. Organizations who participated include: The Field Museum in Chicago; Iowa State University, Open Lands Project; Southern Illinois Univ., Dept. of Forestry; Univ. of Missouri, Allegheny Hardwood Utility Group; City Of Chicago, USFS and the SE Asian Program. Activities for the tour included a display of ALB specimens and damage, a demonstration of bucket truck a climbing survey techniques in the Ravenswood core area, and a demonstration of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag placement and scanning in Oz park trees. Bob Benjamin from Kadix systems presented a brief outline of the Volunteer Survey Program. Bob described methods for recruiting volunteers and the survey protocol used when inspecting trees. Public interest of the ALB program was expressed when several homeowners watched the bucket truck, tree climbing and RFID demos that took place in their neighborhood.



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This event also generated an ALB Program update story that ran in the November 13, 2004 edition of the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

SUDDEN OAK DEATH

PPQ's final draft *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death) Federal Order and associated CCC funding request are moving forward. The new Federal Order to prevent the spread of the pathogen in the United States will regulate the movement of all nursery stock from California, Oregon, and Washington. The Order and an APHIS *P. ramorum* strategic plan have been developed with input from industry representatives and state cooperators.

On November 16 and 17 PPQ met with representatives of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in a two-day bilateral meeting on *P. ramorum*. During the meetings a framework for resolving differences in each country's approach to the pathogen were discussed. We will continue to work with the Canadians to harmonize our programs.

On November 12, PPQ confirmed the detection of *P. ramorum* at six Oregon nurseries. The total number of confirmed positive sites from the trace forward, national, and other survey is 170 in 21 States. The total includes three residential finds; two in Georgia and one in South Carolina; there was one environs find in New York. The breakdown per State is: AL (3), AR (1), AZ (1), CA (53), CO (1), FL (6), GA (16), LA (5), MD (2), NC (9), NJ (1), NM (1), NY (1), OK (1), OR (24), PA (1), SC (4), TN (2), TX (11), VA (2) and WA (25).

There were no changes reported on national survey statistics this week. As of November 14, 2004, participating States through out the nation have surveyed 3,095 sites and have collected 50,820 samples; 15 national survey sites are confirmed positive. APHIS - PPQ *P. ramorum* National Survey activities are reported complete in 22 of 23 Western Region States currently participating (AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, IA, ID, KS, LA, MO, MT, NE, NM, ND, NV, OK, OR, SD, UT, TX,

WA, and WY) and 18 of 28 participating Eastern Region states, including Puerto Rico (AL, CT, DE, FL, IL, IN, KY, ME, MI, MN, MS, NC, NJ, OH, PA, PR, TN, WI).